

PINK BOLLWORM PROGRAM – WEEKLY REPORT

41 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COTTON GROWERS



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Pink Bollworm Activities

Southern California:

Senior Economic Entomologist Daniel Keaveny, along with four Shafter Pink Bollworm employees, traveled south to Blythe and the Palo Verde Valley to help conduct a cotton bloom survey. There have been higher than expected numbers of native pink bollworm moths captured in some fields in this area over the last three to four weeks. To date, 1,117 natives have been trapped. At this time in 2007 (the first year of 100% *Bt* cotton plantings) over 115,000 natives had been trapped. The 2008 tarp catches indicate a 99% drop from the previous year. Since there was only *Bacillus thuringiensis* (*Bt*) cotton grown in the Palo Verde Valley last year and it is the only variety being grown this year, Pink Bollworm Program management felt it would be prudent to conduct a bloom survey to rule out a *Bt* resistance incident. Fifteen fields were surveyed and 639 rows were walked with negative results.



Bloom Survey Crew

Sterile moth releases started in the Palo Verde Valley last Friday, 6/06/08, and began in the Bard area in Imperial Valley on Monday of this week. The forty-five additional traps deployed in high native capture fields were removed while servicing this week.

San Joaquin Valley:

Cotton mapping has been completed and the cotton acreage in the San Joaquin Valley appears to be at 262,730, down 38.7% from last year. Staff has been busy studying the cotton acreage layout and establishing efficient trapping zones. There will be 4 seasonal trappers working out of the Shafter field location and 5 seasonal trappers working out of the Fresno location. Trappers will begin deploying traps in all areas on Monday June 16th. A total of 8,811,359 sterile moths were released this week over target fields in Kern and Tulare Counties, bringing the season release total to 52,719,866. The 45 early detection traps in place have detected 10,120 sterile Pink Bollworm moths and zero (0) Native Pink Bollworm moths.

Sacramento Valley:

The latest heat unit projections indicate mapping and trapping will begin in late August.